
BIBLE STUDY

JOURNAL

HEARING GOD'S VOICE THROUGH THE WORD

The Psalmist asked the question: "How can a young person stay pure?" Looking at the temptations, pressures and distractions that fill modern life, that seems like a pretty good question. What was the answer the Psalmist found? "By obeying your word and following its rules." He goes on to tell God "I have tried my best to find you—don't let me wander from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your principles." (Psa 119:9-12 New Living Bible)

Our only hope for protecting our purity comes from obeying God's Word and following its rules. We can only find God and follow him when we hide his Word in our hearts and allow him to teach us his principles. We must study God's Word.

One way to learn God's principles is with a PRECEPT Bible study. Such a study has 7 specific steps:

PRAY: Jesus promised "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth." (John 16:13 NLB) A PRECEPT Bible study begins by asking the Spirit to guide us into truth as we study God's Word. Perhaps we are facing specific struggles, now is the time to ask God to speak to these specific needs.

READ: Obviously to study the Bible we must read it. The second step is to read the text for the day.

EXAMINE: It is important not to take Biblical texts out of their context. Such an approach can lead to misleading "discoveries." (Just look at the lesson Satan

tried to teach Jesus by taking a text out of context. Matthew 4:5-7) To avoid such errors we begin by looking at the context. What comes before and after the scripture we read?

COMPARE: The fourth step is to compare today's reading with what the rest of the Bible says. What Biblical themes or concepts does this scripture develop? Then we can ask, "What is God trying to say to me?"

EXAMINE: After examining the Scripture we must let the Scripture examine our lives. What changes does God want to make in our lives? If I seek to obey this command, how will my behavior be different? How will my attitudes be different? My Priorities? My habits? My relationships? Now we can ask, "What am I going to do with what I know?"

PRAY: PRECEPT Bible study begins with prayer, and it returns to prayer. As we near the end of our Bible study we pray that God will help us to take what we have learned and to apply it to our lives.

TAKE WHAT YOU'VE LEARNED AND LIVE IT! That last step is pretty self-explanatory.

Our Bible Study Journal helps us remember what we have learned. On each page you will find:

- A place to record your opening prayer
- A place to record the text you are studying
- A place to write out what God has taught you through the text
- A place to write out the specific changes God calls you to make
- A place to write out your prayer for God's help in making these changes.

